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Sustainable development

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 4 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you to reiterate my country's satisfaction at the recent convening of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, which took place from 5 to 9 June 2017. It achieved the goal of providing a foundation for an end to the cycle of decline in the health of marine resources caused by human activities.

I am pleased to inform you that the Government of the Dominican Republic, contributing to the above-mentioned process, has resolved to protect all species of shark and parrotfish in the country's territorial waters. This provision, contained in resolution No. 0023-2017 of our Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources: "Prohibiting the capture and commercialization of species of sharks, rays, herbivorous fish, reef fish and urchins and their derivatives",* entered into force on 16 June 2017. The resolution is in line with the targets of Goal 14, as contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the efforts of the international community and their common goal of healthy oceans that enable harmonious development for the peoples of the world.

In that connection, I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19 and 73 (a).

(*Signed*) Francisco A. **Cortorreal**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

* Text on file with the Secretariat and available for consultation.

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